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BULLETIN
OF THE
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

Vol. VII.]

New York, March, 1880.

[No. 3.]

§ 23. **Proceedings of the Torrey Club.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Club was held at the "Herbarium," Columbia College, March 9, the President, Dr. J. S. Newberry, in the Chair. There were present 18 members and 2 visitors.

Mr. Britton exhibited several specimens of the fruit of the Chocolate tree (*Theobroma Cacao*), consisting of pods of about the form and size of a thick cucumber, each containing several rows of large beans or seeds, which after being dried, roasted, and ground constitute the cocoa of commerce.

Mr. Leggett exhibited a number of the seeds of the edible pine (*Pinus edulis*), commonly known as "pine nuts," one of the main articles of food of the Indians inhabiting the regions in which they grow. The seeds are about the size of small kidney beans, and have a rich oily kernel contained in a thin shell. In favorable seasons these are gathered by the Indians in large quantities and sold to the people of New Mexico, Arizona, and the border settlements of Mexico. Dr. Newberry made some interesting remarks on this and other species of pines which bear edible fruit, and spoke at some length on the subject of some of the more peculiar conifers observed by him during his explorations in the West.

Mr. Le Roy called the attention of the members to a specimen of *Aspidium acrostichoides* in which the frond was very deeply bifurcated.

Dr. Newberry exhibited a Japanese botanical work, which, judging from the very beautifully executed plates, was devoted entirely to the order Compositæ.

Miss E. G. Knight read a short list of plants which she had observed in flower this season. According to her observations, made in Central Park, *Acer rubrum* and *A. dasycarpum* were in full flower on Feb. 14th; two willows (species?) and *Corylus Americana*, Feb. 27th; *Symplocarpus foetidus*, March 1st; *Populus grandidentata*, March 5th; *Ulmus Americana*, *Cydonia Japonica*, and *Forsythia viridissima*, March 6th.

Mr. Bicknell, from observations made at Riverdale on the Hudson, made the following additions to the above list: *Alnus incana* and *A. serrulata* in flower Feb. 29th; *Draba verna*, March 1st; and *Taraxacum Dens-leonis*, March 4th. Mr. Bicknell also stated that the *Symplocarpus* was observed by him in flower at Riverdale on the 29th of February, and was then being visited by large numbers of bees. According to records kept by members of the Club as to the flowering of the foregoing plants in past years, the present season is just 35 days in advance of any that have preceded it.

Miss Jane T. Meigs, and Mr. B. B. Chamberlin, both of New York City, were elected active members. One new name was proposed for membership.

Mr. Braman read a communication from Mr. Frank Tweedy, con-

sisting of some valuable and interesting "Notes on the Flora of Plainfield, N. J." After a discussion of this paper, Mr. Britton read a communication from Mr. H. H. Rusby, entitled "Notes on a Botanical Trip Through Northern New Jersey." Like the former, this paper contained very many valuable items of interest in regard to new stations for rare plants, and gave rise to considerable discussion. An abstract of both papers will be found in this issue of the BULLETIN.

§ 24. **Notes on the Flora of Plainfield, N. J.**—About a mile west of Plainfield, N. J., is a long and generally abrupt range of hills, trending to the northeast, and varying from 300 to 600 feet in height. This elevation, composed mainly of trap rock, forms a part of the triassic formation, and is known as "First Mountain" in the geological reports of the State. At Plainfield a deep gap occurs, through which flows Stony Brook, and on the slopes of this depression and in its immediate vicinity a number of interesting plants are to be found. On the northeast side of this gap, near the top, grows *Cheilanthes vestita*, Swartz., on a small ledge of trap rock, the plants covering an area of several square yards. I have collected specimens here that had some of the fronds branched near the apex. Here also with *Cheilanthes* grows *Opuntia vulgaris*, Mill., [?] the only locality for it that I have yet discovered near Plainfield. At the base of the ledge occurs *Phlox pilosa*, L., and about half way down the descent towards Stony Brook, *Zizia integrerrima*, DC., is quite abundant. Along the stream *Clematis verticillaris*, DC., grows sparingly. This species I have found in large quantities, some 3 miles north of Plainfield on the same range of hills, growing with *Sambucus pubens*, Michx., on the western slope, rooting in rich black mould among masses of trap boulders.

Crossing Stony Brook and ascending a few rods, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, Link., can be found growing abundantly on low outcropping ledges of trap rock in the shade of a hemlock grove. It would seem, as Mr. Davenport remarks, that this fern is not by any means entirely confined to limestone formations. Fronds with auricled bases and irregularly sinuate margins are not uncommon at this locality, but the most singular abnormal form that I have collected is one in which the midrib of the frond forks just above the base, and, widely diverging, forms a twin or double frond, each bearing fruit dots and rooting from the two apices. With *Camptosorus* grow in profusion *Polypodium vulgare*, L., *Aspidium marginale*, Swartz., and *Asplenium Trichomanes*, L. At the base of the rocks and in the crevices between them the soil is kept constantly wet by the drainage from the higher land above, and here can be found several plants common to swamps and low ground, including *Trillium erectum*, L., and *Allium tricoccum*, Ait.

Passing up the ascent a short distance, *Viola rostrata*, Pursh., can be found growing abundantly in rich thickets, through which are scattered *Morus rubra*, L., *Ulmus fulva*, Michx., and *Corylus rostrata*, Ait. At this locality in July, 1875, I found *Aralia quinquefolia*, Gray. I have detected sparingly here also *Chamaelirium luteum*, Willd., and *Melanthium Virginicum*, L. Further up the slope, in